



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

FBIS-AFR-94-190
Friday
30 September 1994

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Burundi

Troops, Gangs Clash; One Dead, 'Many' Wounded

AB3009081094 Paris AFP in English 1821 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Bujumbura, Sept 29 (AFP)—One person was killed and several others wounded overnight in cross fire between government forces and armed gangs in outlying suburbs of Bujumbura, an Army spokesman said Thursday [29 September].

At least a dozen grenades were thrown in the Musaga and Kinindo districts, most against a position held by security forces and an officer's house—amid the cross fire increased, said a Defence Ministry spokesman.

Gangs also placed mines in the same areas, one of which blew a man's leg off Thursday morning, said spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Bosco Daradangwue.

On Tuesday, 40 km (25 miles) south of Bujumbura, security forces had killed a shopowner who shot at them when they tried to buy something from him, Daradangwue said. Three people with the man—a suspected arms supplier—were arrested.

The clashes took place amid continuing fragile negotiations between mainly Hutu government and Tutsi-led opposition forces on choosing a new administration of national unity.

Congo

Lissouba Orders Deployment of Soldiers in Brazzaville

AB2809222194 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Congolese President Pascal Lissouba today ordered the deployment of soldiers in Brazzaville in order to put a definitive end to insecurity in the various suburbs. During a meeting with officers of the Army and the Air Force, as well as paratroop squads, President Lissouba told them, quote, retake your place on the streets because that is your place. You should regain your position there. He added that no one else should be allowed to roam the streets with arms.

In January, soldiers were deployed in the central and northern districts of the capital to forestall any possible clashes at a time when armed opposition and presidential group militiamen clashed in the southern district. The soldiers were withdrawn when calm was restored in the capital. The president stated that in view of continued insecurity in the capital due to the presence of militiamen, the Army should be deployed in all districts, especially in the southern district.

Takes Measures To End Insecurity

AB2909211894 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] President Lissouba of Congo is taking measures to try and end the continuing insecurity in the capital, Brazzaville. Even though the clashes between pro- and antigovernment militias have subsided with agreements between the government and the opposition, banditry, armed robbery, and general mayhem have still plagued districts of the city. Now the president wants the Army to tighten up, but there are those who feel the soldiers might themselves be perpetrators of trouble. From Brazzaville, Antoine Mouyambala telexed this report:

Speaking at a military base in Brazzaville, President Lissouba made it clear that insecurity in the capital was something over which the Army have had to take control. Lissouba told the soldiers: We need you to take up station on the streets and make sure no other armed individuals do so. President Lissouba commented on the lack of security on the streets of Brazzaville, saying at present women are afraid to go out alone and traders have been forced to shut up shops for fear of their lives.

Violent crime and murder have become commonplace in the city, and weapons have circulated freely since the faction fighting by political militias last December. However, there have also been violent incidents involving young recruits from the Congolese Army, especially those from southern Congo favorable to the president.

Last Saturday [24 September], a young soldier terrorized train passengers with a grenade in the town of Dolisie before being taken back to barracks. In another incident last month, a soldier commandeered a train and made it return to the station so that he could pick up his beret, which had been left behind. President Lissouba also made the point in his speech that the Army should take an interest in the development of the nation.

Gabon

Government, Opposition End Meeting, Adopt Measures

AB2809183094 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1215 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The Gabonese Government and the opposition High Council of the Resistance ended their three-week meeting in Paris yesterday. Mohamed Issoufou Saliou has the details.

[Begin Saliou recording] One of the major gains of the Paris meeting is undoubtedly the revision of the electoral code and the establishment of an independent national electoral commission to be presided over by a judge. The two delegations decided to adopt an electoral timetable setting the date for the local elections at 12 months from

the date of the formation of the democratic government and the date for the parliamentary elections at 18 months from the same date. Regarding the issue of the rule of law to which all Gabonese aspire, the two delegations agreed to ensure the independence and efficiency of constitutional institutions, restore state authority, recognize political parties which are worth their salt, fund the campaigns of such parties, as well as fund the operation of the parties that have deputies at the National Assembly.

Furthermore, the two sides agreed to acknowledge the status of former head of state, adopt a regulatory code for journalists, reorganize the state media into independent state organs, revise the media laws and so on. As part of measures to ensure the security of lives and property, both delegations also decided to transform the Presidential Guard into the Republican Guard, bring the police force and the immigration services under the Interior Ministry's control, and entrust the police and the Gendarmerie with the task of enforcing law and order.

Other gains of the Paris meeting include the establishment of a National Council on Democracy, the revision of the nationality bill, the adoption of two draft bills tackling the issue of damages people suffered during demonstrations from 1990 to 1993, as well the decentralization of services before the holding of local elections. Furthermore, there was consensus on the formation of the democratic government, the transitional program, and the adoption of measures to ensure transparency. [end recording]

Rwanda

UN Suspends Refugee Repatriation Program

AB2809184594 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Kigali, 28 Sep (AFP)—The United Nations on Wednesday [28 September] suspended its operation to repatriate Rwandan refugees for lack of takers, blaming negative propaganda. At the same time UN officials reported that Rwandans were streaming back into neighbouring countries because of the current insecurity.

Around 2.3 million Rwandan refugees, mainly Hutus, are in camps in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi and another 350,000 are still in the former safety zone set up by the French in the southwest of the country. The launch of the UN's Operation Homeward on Tuesday was a total failure. Only 27 refugees were picked up by the 30 trucks laid on by the UN to take them home.

UN spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante said the operation had fallen victim to "negative propaganda" so that refugees who had expressed a desire to go home had changed their minds and preferred to stay in the camps. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees reported Tuesday that the flow of refugees at the border with Zaire had reversed and that around 300 Hutus a day were leaving the country.

UNHCR spokesman Lyndall Sachs blamed "jungle justice." The mainly-Hutu refugees are afraid to go home for fear of reprisals by the Tutsi forces of the former rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), now in power in Kigali.

The UN had anticipated accompanying 4,000 refugees a day from the camps in the southwest to their home villages further east in Butare and Gitarama, south of Kigali. In the longer term Operation Homeward was to have been extended to the troubled southeast of the country, where 100 UN troops have been sent to investigate rumours of reprisal killings.

The Canadian commander of the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda, General Guy Toussignant, arrived in the region on Wednesday morning. [passage omitted]

On Wednesday, Major Plante reported that unknown attackers had opened fire on Monday on a vehicle carrying three RPF [Rwandan Patriotic Front] soldiers in the southeast of the country. The driver lost control and the soldiers were injured, although it was not clear whether they were shot or hurt in the crash. They were rescued by Canadian UN troops.

UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday announced that an in-depth enquiry would be conducted into the rumours and UNHCR reports alleging that RPF soldiers were involved in atrocities against the majority Hutu community. The affair has been put in the hands of the committee of UN experts which is already investigating the massacres during last summer's civil war, which left up to a million dead.

Mandela Says Cabinet Satisfied With Buthelezi Apology

MB2809144994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1310 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Report by Patrick Bulger]

[Excerpt] Pretoria Sept 28 SAPA—Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi escaped with his cabinet career intact on Wednesday [28 September], but only after agreeing to an unconditional apology for commandeering an SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] studio during a live broadcast.

The cabinet, at its routine bi-weekly meeting, passed a motion of "severe censure" on Mr. Buthelezi for his action in storming a studio while a rival, Prince Sifiso Zulu, a spokesman of the Zulu royal house interim committee, was being interviewed.

At a joint press conference with President Nelson Mandela at the Union Buildings after cabinet had met, Mr. Buthelezi repeated the apology he had earlier made to his cabinet colleagues in front of scores of domestic and international journalists. "I did apologise then (Sunday) to the public in general, to all the viewers, and I would like to take this opportunity to repeat my apology to the nation as such," Mr. Buthelezi said.

President Mandela, who interrupted a holiday to deal with the crisis, said Mr Buthelezi had "co-operated very well with the cabinet." He complimented him for being "big enough" to apologise. "I was happy that he was able to co-operate to make it possible for us to continue working as before," Mr. Mandela said.

Had the apology not been forthcoming, however, "the matter might have had a quite different outcome", a source close to the deliberations said.

Mr. Buthelezi said he had been "quite prepared to resign if I was an embarrassment to the president and the cabinet."

Mr. Mandela said he had "prevailed on him that I want him to remain in the cabinet. The fact that we have condemned his action in the strongest terms does not mean to say that his value in the cabinet has now been discarded." "Serious bumps" were to be expected in a cabinet of a government of national unity which had developed "strong shock absorbers" to deal with crises.

Mr. Buthelezi's apology, while unconditional, was accompanied by an attack on Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting Minister Dr. Pallo Jordan. Dr. Jordan's report on the incident, based in the main on a report from SABC Chief Executive Zwelakhe Sisulu, had not presented both sides of the story, Mr. Buthelezi alleged. He described the report as "one-sided."

Mr. Buthelezi again repeated his insistence that he had not known the cameras were rolling when the incident occurred. He made no mention of a claim by his Inkatha

Freedom Party that the incident was part of an African National Congress-inspired attempt to assassinate him.

He did not know Prince Zulu "from a bar of soap." "I assumed the programme was over and since I wanted to ask him (Prince Zulu) not only about the programme but because since the 20th of this month he has been issuing statements in the media saying all sorts of things about the king.

"I'm not such a bumbling fool that I would go into a live studio and interfere with a programme deliberately. The thing should be looked at against the wider canvas of the kinds of conflicts some people have been trying to generate in the region of KwaZulu/Natal in the past few weeks."

Mr. Mandela said the cabinet had accepted Mr. Buthelezi's explanation and had expressed its condemnation of his conduct. "We don't intend to do anything beyond that." [passage omitted]

Mandela Cancels Appearance at Johannesburg Press Club

MB3009062994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2129 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Johannesburg Sept 29 SAPA—State President Nelson Mandela failed to turn up at the Johannesburg Press Club on Thursday [29 September] evening to receive the Newsmaker of the Year award. Club chairman Hans Lombard said in a statement a spokesman from Mr Mandela's office telephoned him at 1700 on Wednesday to cancel the engagement. No explanation was given.

"Several telephone calls to his secretary and press liaison officer to call me, as I felt I owed the media, our guests and sponsors some explanation, have met with no response," Mr Lombard said. "The Johannesburg Press Club's annual Newsmaker of the Year event is one of the most prestigious functions held in Johannesburg. Never before, in the 13 years since the inception of the award, has a recipient failed to turn up. I sincerely apologise to our sponsors for not having the complete event they sponsored."

He added it was the second time a member of Mr Mandela's government had "left the press club in the lurch." "A few months ago we invited Minister of Defence Mr Joe Modise to a function as guest speaker. He cancelled the day before the function took place."

Further on Mandela's Absence

MB3009064594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2050 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Johannesburg Sept 29 SAPA—One of the greatest challenges facing South Africa was to ensure the Reconstruction and Development Programme succeeded, Deputy President F. W. de Klerk said on Thursday [29 September]. He was addressing the Johannesburg Press

Club at Gold Reef City where he received the Newsmaker of the Year award. Co-winner President Nelson Mandela was unable to attend.

Mr. de Klerk said: "Because of our common realisation that the key to future social and political security will depend on our ability to address the pressing needs of millions of South Africans, we are all committed to the effective implementation of the programme."

Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Prof Kader Asmal received Mr. Mandela's award on his behalf. Press Club Chairman Hans Lombard expressed dismay and disappointment that Mr. Mandela had cancelled his appearance "without an explanation."

Mr. Asmal, speaking in place of Mr. Mandela, said the president would have loved to attend but was having a "well-earned rest and holiday". "None of us here could begrudge the president this before his historic visit to the United States," he said.

Reading from the prepared text of Mr. Mandela's speech, Mr. Asmal said the public service had to be restructured to reflect the aims of the Reconstruction and Development Programme and the make-up of society as a whole. "We must ensure that in the drafting of the new constitution we consolidate and deepen the culture of human rights beginning to take root in our country." The way in which the old order lived in the face of unemployment, lack of housing and poor health and education services was unacceptable. These were challenges the government had set out to tackle head-on, Mr. Asmal said.

In his speech Mr. de Klerk said without the press and the media there could not be true democracy. "We need in these formative years a press which is on the one hand responsible and on the other hand fearless. If there is ever a time South Africa needs the truth in an objective manner it is now. A relationship of constructive tension between the press and politicians is necessary for true and successful democracy."

South Africa was poised to become a dynamic force in Southern Africa—a region of 110 million people which could become one of the fastest growing markets in the world. "If we unlock our tremendous potential South Africa could become a world role player. We are already looked upon as a role model for how seemingly impossible situations can be resolved." The press had an important role to play in opening the road to a new dynamic era for all South Africans, Mr. de Klerk said.

De Klerk's Office Reacts to Dam Project Allegations

MB2909070394 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 2000 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The office of Deputy President F.W. de Klerk has just reacted to allegations by the managing director of

the Swissbrough Diamond Mine in Lesotho, Mr. Josias van Zyl, that Mr. de Klerk misled Parliament on the Katse dam issue.

Mr. van Zyl said that last year Mr. de Klerk did not admit his government's role in a decree issued in 1992 by Lesotho's military government, overturned yesterday by the Lesotho High Court. In terms of the decree mining rights to five mines belonging to Mr. van Zyl's company were suspended because it was situated on the planned site for the Katse dam, one of the key components of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Mr. van Zyl alleges that the Katse Dam cannot be filled in terms of yesterday's court ruling. Deputy President de Klerk's office says it is the view of his legal adviser that Mr. van Zyl's allegations are groundless and false.

Mr. van Zyl was informed by Mr. de Klerk's office that he can test his allegations in court. The office also denied that Deputy President de Klerk had ever misled Parliament. Earlier tonight South Africa's Department of Water Affairs and Forestry declared that the Katse Dam and its tunnels are definitely not affected by yesterday's court ruling in Lesotho, except for certain sections of the tunnel. The court ruling only affects the government of Lesotho and not the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, except certain activities at the entrance to the water supply tunnel.

The implications of this are still being investigated, but the department does not see any delays regarding the completion of the entire project.

Cabinet Approves Shutting Uranium Enrichment Plant

MB2909172394 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The surprise reduction in the petrol price could bring down inflation and improve South Africa's short-term economic prospects. This is the reaction of political parties and the South African Chamber of Business to the announcement by Mineral and Energy Affairs Minister Pik Botha that the petrol price is to be decreased by 6 cents a liter from next Wednesday. [passage omitted]

The government has also announced that cabinet has given the go-ahead for the Atomic Energy Corporation to close its Pelindaba uranium enrichment plant because of high operating costs. However, Mr. Botha said that a new laser process for producing the commodity would be developed. He said this could lead to South Africa exporting enriched uranium in future. He did not provide timetables for the closing of the old plant or the commissioning of a new plant at the same site.

IFP Rejects Call for Amnesty for East Rand SDU Members

MB3009081994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2136 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Durban Sept 29 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] has accused PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand,

Vereeniging] MEC [member of the Executive Council] for Safety and Security Jessie Duarte of naivete for proposing an amnesty for self-defence unit [SDU] members on the East Rand.

Ms. Duarte on Wednesday [28 September] suggested SDU members should voluntarily hand over illegal weapons in return for immunity from prosecution. In a statement on Thursday, the IFP said the proposal would not contribute to peace. "Far from contributing to peace, Ms. Duarte's proposal would promote anarchy and lawlessness. Instead of supporting police initiatives, Minister Duarte's pronouncement will increase antagonism towards the police and undermine police efforts aimed at clamping down on the high level of illegal weapons in circulation on the East Rand."

PWV Government Postpones Summit on Housing, Arrears

MB3009082194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2204 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Statement issued by the Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging Provincial Government on the SAPA PR Wire Service on 29 September]

[Text] The summit of the transfer of houses and writing-off of arrears—planned for 1 October by the Department of Housing and Local Government—has been postponed. The meeting will be reconvened once the national task forces examining these issues have completed their business.

Survey Shows Concern With Economy, Crime

MB2909145594 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 29 Sep 94 p 19

["Highlights" of STAR/MMR survey by Chris Whitefield and Shaun Johnson]

[Text] The Star/MMR survey covered adults of all races, aged 18 and over. African coverage of major metropolitan areas was supplemented with samples from towns and villages. Interviews were conducted at home, in the language of the respondent, using a questionnaire. Interviewers were of the same race as the respondents. The fieldwork was done from 19 July 1994 to 14 August 1994. The margin of error in the survey, according to MMR, is less than 5 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.

During the election campaign that eventually saw him elevated to the White House, Bill Clinton had this slogan pinned to his wall: "It's the economy, stupid." He read the mood of the American nation accurately, and South African politicians would do well to follow his lead, according to the latest Star/MMR opinion poll.

While it seems that pre-election fears of escalating political violence have been dampened by the post-election reality, concerns about the economy loom large in the

South African mind. A full 52 percent of respondents say they are worried about the economy. Of these more than half are now more concerned than they were before the election, while 37 percent say their worries are easing. There has been a notable shift in people's concern about political violence, as opposed to common crime. Now 46 percent of South Africans say they are less concerned about political violence than they were before the transition, while 43 percent cite increasing worries about crime levels. However, not all South Africans are convinced that political violence is behind us, with 34 percent of those surveyed saying they had increased concerns about it.

The "coloured" community is most concerned about continuing political violence (55 percent predicting an increase) and crime (64 percent), followed by white and Indian concerns about crime (61 percent and 52 percent respectively).

By contrast, only 32 percent of Africans are now more concerned about crime levels, and 25 percent about political violence. Most South Africans seem to think that on balance, life is getting better in the new South Africa for people of their gender, religion, and race.

There are clear exceptions, however, with 52 percent of whites fearing a worsening of conditions for their community. Only 15 percent of whites think things will improve. Most upbeat of all are Africans, with 84 percent predicting a better life for people of their race and only 4 percent predicting that things will get worse.

The Indian community is also generally optimistic, with 58 percent of respondents looking forward to an improved lifestyle and 16 percent pessimistic. Only 37 percent of "coloured" people expect a better life, while 27 percent predict a worsening of their conditions. Looked at from a party-political perspective, there are clear differences in expectations among supporters of the various groups. Most optimistic, unsurprisingly, are supporters of the majority party in the Government of National Unity, the ANC: a full 82 percent expect a better life for their families. The figure dips markedly among supporters of other parties, with a bare 11 percent of Freedom Front backers expecting the same. Corresponding figures for the National Party [NP], Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP], and Democratic Party [DP] are 22 percent, 42 percent, and 25 percent respectively.

Forty seven percent of Freedom Fronters expect conditions to get worse, while 36 percent of NP backers are also pessimistic. More DP supporters—31 percent—expect a worsening of conditions than those backing the IFP—20 percent.

Women are generally looking forward to a better lot in the new South Africa. Asked whether they thought people of their gender would be better or worse off in the new society, 68 percent predicted an improvement, 19 percent expected life to be much the same, and 13 percent feared a worsening.

But men do not think they will be disadvantaged: 63 percent predicted better conditions for males, while 18 percent were pessimistic. Of this 18 percent, more than half were Freedom Front supporters.

A notable statistic reveals pessimism among white males—presumably wary of affirmative action. Only 14 percent include themselves among those looking forward to a better life for men. The corresponding figure for white women is 34 percent.

Indian males (61 percent) are more optimistic about the future than those in the colored community (47 percent). African males (84 percent) and females (87 percent) are both considerably more optimistic than other communities.

Religious people expect an improvement in conditions for the faithful. Fifty-five percent, representing all faiths, anticipate a better climate for worship in the new South Africa, while 32 percent thought things would remain much the same.

The Star/MMR survey also brought to the fore intriguing attitudes toward the unusual "dual anthem" arrangement. Four months into the new society, 16 percent of South Africans say they can sing both anthems, while another 37 percent say they can sing only one—but intend to learn the other. Thirty-five percent signalled their opposition to the new arrangement by saying they had no intention of learning the "other" anthem. Twelve percent of the country's citizens know neither anthem. Of the recalcitrants who refuse to learn a second anthem, 78 percent are Freedom Front supporters, 43 percent back the Pan Africanist Congress [PAC], and 40 percent the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Interestingly, however, 29 of those who said they could sing both anthems, are PAC supporters. Just under a third of those who know neither anthem are IFP supporters, while a quarter are loyal to the DP.

Regarding the new South African flag, an overwhelming 82 percent of respondents said they thought it should be retained permanently. Least enthusiastic were whites, although a majority of 56 percent concurred. Ninety-five percent of Africans, 88 percent of Indians, and 72 percent of "coloured" have fully embraced the new banner.

IMF Ready To Grant New Loan to Government

*MB3009094594 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 0500 GMT 30 Sep 94*

[Text] The International Monetary Fund says it will grant a new loan to South Africa if the government asks for it. The IMF made a crisis package of over 3 billion rands available to South Africa at the end of last year. The IMF's managing director, Mr. Michel Camdessus, said in Madrid that the IMF was now ready to go ahead

with the new program if it was asked to do so. He called South Africa's new government the best news for Southern Africa in 50 years.

South African Press Review for 29 Sep

MB2909124694

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

Mandela Criticism of Tutu 'Unfortunate'—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 28 September in its page 6 editorial finds it "unfortunate" that President Mandela has "sharply criticised" Archbishop Tutu for accusing cabinet ministers of being on the gravy train. THE CITIZEN advises Mandela to "take criticism in your stride and let your leadership be a shining example to your government, your party and the nation of tolerance. You do not have to wag your finger at anyone like one of your Nationalist predecessors did."

THE STAR

Tutu Keeps Mandela, Government in Check—"Archbishop Tutu has been bumping heads with South Africa's presidents for two decades," notes a page 18 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 29 September. There is, therefore, "no better person" to remind President Mandela and the present government "that the nation has taken to heart the clichés about democracy and transparency, and expects them to be met." Tutu's attitude is an "example of what democracy is all about—a far cry from President Mandela's aggrieved suggestion that complaints should be kept for private tete-a-tetes, and even further from his extraordinary idea that people who discredit the ANC should 'not be tolerated'." THE STAR further notes that the reason we should not fear an ANC dictatorship is because of the "vigour of internal debate inside the ANC itself and its fellow-travellers."

BUSINESS DAY

Welcome Precedent in Dealing With Buthelezi—Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi's public apology for his "outrageous" behavior on national television is "the best possible political solution to the problems arising from the incident," says a page 10 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 29 September. Also, a "welcome precedent" has been set by the new government "of a Cabinet Minister being forced to take accountability for his actions." President Mandela employed "considerable political skill" to avert what was "threatening to become a serious crisis for government." The dismissal of Buthelezi would not only have caused an escalation of violence in KwaZulu/Natal and the Witwatersrand, but also have threatened the unity of the interim government. However, now Buthelezi's position "in the factional struggle has been weakened and the royal courtiers will be moving in for the kill."

Angola

UN Security Council Extends UNAVEM Mandate

MB3009084294 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] Yesterday, the UN Security Council decided unanimously to extend the mandate of the UN Angola Verification Mission-2, UNAVEM-2, until 31 October of this year. The UN Security Council approved a resolution asking the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] to comply with the agreements that have already been reached at the Lusaka peace talks and to wind up negotiations as soon as possible. The resolution also called on the two sides to make every possible effort to ensure that the peace accord is signed on or before 15 October.

The UN Security Council further noted that it will regard as unacceptable any new delays in the peace process, adding that no additional sanctions will be considered against UNITA at this stage because it had agreed to the proposals advanced by UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye and the troika of observer countries. The UN Security Council reaffirmed its intention to review the UN role in Angola should the Lusaka talks not lead to a peace accord and it deplored military offensives in all parts of Angolan territory.

Government Air Force Shells Mission in Huila, Huambo

MB2909153594 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpts] At 1155 [1055 GMT] on 27 September in Huila Province, a bomber plane coming from [words indistinct] indiscriminately shelled the Mugola Catholic Mission with two fragmentation bombs, killing two women and wounding three others, including a child, as well as destroying four homes. On 28 September, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola once again shelled the mission but without causing victims. [passage omitted]

In Huambo too, the Luanda Government Air Force continues to spread pain and grief among civilians. Thus, within the framework of their general offensive, Eduardo dos Santos' men shelled (Chiinga), Caala, and the Longonjo district capital along the Benguela railroad on 27 September, killing many people. This was reported by our correspondent Lourenco Bento.

Correspondent Reports on Peace Talks in Lusaka

MB2909104294 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Report by correspondent Alves Antonio in Lusaka]

[Text] The negotiators from the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] held informal meetings here in Lusaka this afternoon in order to bring their views closer on some issues on which they still differ. In turn, the mediators held meetings with military experts in Luanda and at UN headquarters. All these meetings are connected with the definition of military terms [words indistinct] during the discussions for the UN Angola Verification Mission's mandate, the role of observers, and the body that will replace the Joint Political and Military Commission [CCPM].

With regard to the CCPM, the government and UNITA already have reached agreement on a number of issues, excluding two which are being dealt with by Alioune Blondin Beye, special representative of the UN secretary general in Angola. Tomorrow the government and UNITA representatives are expected to meet again to conclude discussions on military terms, as well as discuss issues connected to UNITA's participation in the country's government at all levels and the body that will replace the CCPM.

Military Situation in Huila, Bie, Lunda Sul Viewed

MB3009090994 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] government remains committed to war. (Domingos Mukwinda), the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel [Vorgan] correspondent in Huila Province, reports that the Eduardo dos Santos army has again trained its murderous rage on a religious target in the province. This time it was the Catholic mission at (Negola). The cowardly attack occurred on 27 September. Five people were killed, including two very young children. Three women were also seriously injured.

Meanwhile, Vorgan has learned from the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] Northeast Region Command that the MPLA-PT has also embarked a major offensive in Lunda Sul Province. It involves the 39th Brigade of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and South African as well as Katangese mercenaries. The source also reported that the offensive is led by Major (Cuidado) and Superintendent Veneno, adding that its aim is to retake Cacolo District and the area of Mona Quimbundo, both of which are currently controlled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA].

In view of this provocative operation by the communist FAPLA troops led by Eduardo dos Santos, the FALA Northeast Region Command issued a communique on 29 September in which it called the attention of the Angolan and international communities to the fact that it will not assume any responsibility for the consequences of that operation. The sources also said that the

UNITA armed forces are ready to defend to the last man the peaceful people of those areas from bloodthirsty operations masterminded by the clique in Luanda's Futungo de Belas Palace.

In Bie Province, the communist MPLA-PT regime is using basic goods to seduce the people in the areas that [words indistinct] a source in the MPLA-PT army draft services says the fact that many people have been arriving in the city has made it much easier to pick up young and older men to fill the FAPLA ranks.

A traditional chief in the area has told Vorgan that people—sometimes entire families—who had sought refuge in distant villages have been returning to the city of Bie [Kuito] in the wake of the Luanda regime's announcement that it was launching the much vaunted solidarity campaign. Those people thought they might get some kind of aid. But shortly after they arrive in the city, they find that women are brutally removed from the company of their husbands and sons, who are promptly taken to concentration camps so they can then be flown to the army base at Lubango, the capital of Huila Province.

UNITA's Valentim Says Peace To Be Established 'Soon'

MB3009060694 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] According to the UN Security Council's latest stand on Angola, tomorrow, 30 September, is the deadline for concluding the peace talks in Lusaka. Everything shows, however, that the talks will not conclude tomorrow. All the same, it is expected that an agreement will be reached in Lusaka during the month of October. In an interview with Luanda Radio Nacional correspondent Alves Antonio, Jorge Valentim, spokesman for the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], said the talks will be concluded soon.

[Begin recording] [Antonio] Where is the impasse right now?

[Valentim] Well, the impasse is connected with the name of the mechanism that will replace the Joint Political and Military Commission [CCPM] [words indistinct]. We must speed up our work in order to achieve peace as soon as possible. The UN Security Council has set 30 September as the deadline. We should not prolong the talks far beyond that date because it is vital to establish peace in our country as soon as possible. We UNITA members have received an explicit mandate from our leadership, notably from President Jonas Malheiro Savimbi, to seriously involve ourselves in the peace talks in order to end the war and obtain peace and national reconciliation. We in UNITA are ready, and we are going to speed up the peace talks as much as we can.

[Antonio] This means, therefore, that the peace talks will be concluded during the month of October?

[Valentim] We are forced to conclude the peace talks as early as possible in October.

[Antonio] Does that mean that all the issues have been discussed?

[Valentim] They are being discussed and will continue to be discussed. We cannot stop just because of a name. The process must move forward, and we are going to speed up the process. After discussions on military terms, we will discuss UNITA's participation in the governing of the country, districts and communes, with the same speed and the same desire. We must find peace as soon as possible [words indistinct].

[Antonio] As a negotiator, you therefore believe that there is light at the end of the tunnel?

[Valentim] Absolutely. The light is there. We have to move toward it and create hope and happiness in all Angolan homes.

[Antonio] What message do you have at the present time?

[Valentim] Our message is that there will be peace soon and that no one can prevent the establishment of peace in Angola. [end recording]

Botswana

Commerce Official on Need To Diversify Economy

MB3009090694 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 0510 GMT 30 Sep 94

[Text] The deputy permanent secretary in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Gilbert Mosemme, says Botswana is faced with challenges of diversifying its economy in the face of the pressure of international competition and regional uncertainty. Mr. Mosemme said this at the 25th anniversary celebrations of the Safe Glass P.G. Industries at the Sheraton Hotel in Gaborone this week.

He said under NDP [National Development Plan] 7 the government is putting more emphasis on labor intensive activities to absorb the growing labor force, especially unskilled labor. He, however, informed guests that Botswana's small market makes it difficult to make competitive business in the country. Mr. Mosemme said the industrial structure as envisaged in the NDP 7 is dominated by [word indistinct] activity, light manufacturing industries operating at an internationally competitive scale, and [word indistinct] oriented business and commercial services.

But he pointed out that the success of the new strategy may actually depend on factors like the availability of dependable market outlets for Botswana's manufactured goods and services, relevant management skills and the development of the regulatory framework for promotion of inventiveness. He said it is important that the government continues to deregulate the economy to increase

competition, broaden consumer trust and to [word indistinct] the flow of resources within various economic uses.

Malawi

Opposition Party Leaders Resign in Protest

EA2909191994 *Blantyre Malawi Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Sep 94*

[Excerpt] The secretary-general of the Malawi National Democratic Party, MNDP, Mr. Hastings Chunga has resigned along with six other members of the party's national executive committee. Announcing their resignations at a press conference in Blantyre today the seven said they could not continue serving a party whose leadership was, in their words, acting in unconstitutionally in several matters of importance to the party. They said that they were considering forming their own party which would adopt some of the MNDP principles. [passage omitted]

Mozambique

Renamo Army Officers Comment on Return to Maringue

MB3009093894 *Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese 30 Sep 94 p 2*

[Report by Arnaldo Abilio: "We are serious"]

[Text] Maputo—Two Mozambique Defense Armed Forces [FADM] lieutenant colonels who came from the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] told us yesterday they were serious about their willingness to return to Maringue.

In the evening, we heard another five officers who were not willing to return to Renamo's former sanctuary but who want houses like their counterparts from the former government army have.

Those five men refused to identify themselves even in terms of ranks, but their spokesman must be a senior officer at least because one of the lieutenant colonels who talked to us at Cardoso Hotel gave him an official salute upon sight, even though he was wearing civilian clothes.

"It makes no sense that senior officers such as we are should be living in a hotel. We already have the experience of what happened in Angola," said the spokesman. He added: "It is not just a matter of being afraid of the Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] or Renamo. The fact is, there are many guns spread around, and the UN Operations in Mozambique [Unomoz] will not be able to collect them all."

He said that letters requesting houses had been sent on 26 April to Generals Lagos Lidimo and Mateus Ngonhamo of the FADM Senior Command. They received no reply. On 20 September, they sent yet

another letter. They also sent a copy of this letter to the Joint Commission for the Formation of the Mozambique Defense Armed Forces [CCFADM].

The spokesman noted that in the second letter "we indicated 30 September (today) as the deadline." The officers will meet at Turismo Hotel to decide what to do. The source added that on 23 September a Housing Registry official from the government's side "took us to the military area and pointed out the houses. It was absurd, an abuse. We did not even so much as set foot on the yards because they are still occupied by former government army officers who have been demobilized. We think it was just an effort to calm us down."

Asked whether they would return to Maringue, as Dhlakama had said, he replied: "We do not know what the Renamo president has said because we are not political forces now." He said he believed Dhlakama must have been informed about their situation by the Renamo team to the CCFADM. "Maringue is not our home. At most, we might return to our houses," he said.

Armed Groups Spotted in Zambezia Province

MB2909192094 *Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 29 Sep 94*

[Text] Armed groups were recently seen near the capital of Namarroi District, Zambezia Province. District administrator Cristiano Conssula said the first armed group was detected in Manhassa, north of the town of Namarroi, and the other in the Lipele area, in the district's southern region.

[Begin Conssula recording] The groups consisted of eight people. They carried firearms and other military equipment. We have not been able to identify the groups, but reports say they could be linked to Rombezia. [Separatist organization demanding independence for territory between Rovuma and Zambezi Rivers]. The groups came from (Sakala), an area formerly controlled by the Mozambique National Resistance, and were heading to Mabalama in Lugela District. [end recording]

The district administrator said the presence of armed groups is more frequent on the border with Lugela District. Area residents have encountered unknown individuals equipped with firearms on several occasions.

Namibia

Slayings Near Border Try Government's 'Patience'

MB2909174994 *London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 29 Sep 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] There has been a shooting incident in northern Namibia, near the sensitive border with Angola. Three people were killed. It is not the first time Angola's troubles have spilled over into Namibia, but this one

seems to have tried the patience of the government in Windhoek just too far. From Windhoek, Nick Slater reports:

One businessman and two students were shot dead yesterday in an ambush staged by masked gunmen wielding AK-47's. The bandits, suspected to be UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] soldiers, placed tree trunks across the road between Rundu and (Begani) and attacked when the passengers of a white sedan stopped to remove the obstacles. The bandits also raped a 22-year-old girl who was caught up in the ambush. The morning attack occurred close to the Namibian-Angolan border in the Okavango region, and latest reports say that three people have been arrested in connection with the attack.

The border area itself is far from secure and shootings do sporadically take place, but banditry is not the only problem. This week, three Namibians returned home from Angola claiming they had been kidnapped by MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] soldiers. An official in the Namibian security services confided to me that such kidnappings are common and are carried out by both the MPLA and UNITA when they run short of troops. Bands of soldiers, apparently, stage recruitment drives, crossing the border and press-ganging Namibians into either joining their respective forces or going to jail.

The SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] government certainly has its hands full controlling the border. It is vast and extremely porous and many people who live on either side of the divide speak the same language and are part of the same ethnic group, and obviously, in comparison with the war-torn Angola, Namibia offers rich pickings, legal and illegal. Nevertheless, yesterday's ambush seems to provoke the government into taking action and the cabinet has decided to suspend the free movement of people across the border until investigations have been completed.

Swaziland

Country Fails To Sign Protocols to Geneva Convention

MB3009074094 Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 30 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Martin Dlamini]

[Text] Swaziland's failure to sign the additional protocols to the 1949 Geneva Conventions means that she supports the use of chemical weapons during war. Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Director, Mrs. Thandiwe Dlamini, has recently disclosed that Swaziland is the only country which is signatory to the Geneva Conventions that has not signed the additional protocols of 1979.

The Public Relations Office for the Red Cross Society, Mr. Archie Motsa, yesterday explained that the additional protocols are an update of the already existing humanitarian laws made to limit the effects of war on civilians established at the Geneva Convention in 1949. These laws prohibit the use of chemical weapons, the shooting of unarmed civilians, prohibiting the attack or bombing of monuments, the protection of Red Cross personnel providing first aid during war and the protection of prisoners of war.

Mr. Motsa said every country that is signatory to the conventions, is bound by these laws in the event of war. "Countries that have signed the additional protocols and fail to obey them, are liable to a penalty for disrespect of the Convention," he said. Mr. Motsa said the failure to sign the protocols has greatly affecting the Red Cross Society, which has been chosen into the executive council of the International Red Cross. [sentence as heard]

Cote d'Ivoire

Tension Reported at Liberian Border

AB2909171694 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 29 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The intensified fighting in Liberia is causing more tension along the border with Ivory Coast. Not only are refugees crossing the border into Ivory Coast but there are reports of fighters terrorizing villagers on the Ivory Coast side of the border, and the government in Abidjan has sent two top ministers to the region to investigate. From Abidjan, David Banford reports:

[Begin Banford recording] Ivory Coast's interior and defense ministers, Emile Bombet and Leon Konan Koffi, left this morning for the northwest corner of the country, where aid agencies estimate 800 new refugees have arrived. A lot more are expected following reports that the Guinea border with Liberia may have been closed following the arrival of 50,000 new refugees there.

In the southwest of Ivory Coast, more than 40,000 refugees have arrived within the space of three weeks, but it's in the northwest, around the town of Danane, where Ivory Coast's concern for security is mainly focused. Many of those (?preying) here are supporters of Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front recently ousted from their headquarters at Gbarnga in central Liberia by a coalition of hostile armed factions. Ivorian Government sources say that armed Liberians have taken to pillaging local villages. Numerous incidents have been reported all along the frontier. In the most recent at Toulepleu, about 100 km south of Danane, two civilians have been shot dead. The authorities say they are determined to clamp down to prevent the Liberian conflict from affecting border security. [end recording]

Border Clash Kills 4

AB2909202094 Paris AFP in English 1953 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Abidjan, Sept 29 (AFP)—Four people were killed when armed men crossed the border from Liberia to attack and loot villages on the Ivory Coast side, a humanitarian aid source said Thursday [29 September].

The incursion Wednesday in the Toulepleu region, 100 km (60 miles) south of Danane, resulted in the deaths of two Ivorians, a Liberian refugee and one of the attackers, the source said.

The attackers were believed to be from one of the factions in Liberia's continuing civil war, but were not possible to identify.

"The attackers first fired shots in the air to frighten the inhabitants, enabling them to loot as they do in Liberia. But the villagers resisted, and the rebels killed two people," the source said.

"The circumstances surrounding the death of the Liberian refugee and one of the attackers haven't yet been clearly established," the source added.

The Ivorian Interior and Defence ministers, Emile Constant Bombet and Leon Konan Koffi, visited the scene Thursday.

Renewed fighting since the end of August in eastern Liberia has led to a number of incursions onto Ivorian territory by soldiers looking for food, water and fuel.

Nearly a dozen incidents were reported in the past month. Wednesday's incident was the first to claim lives.

Ghana

Government Tightens Security After Alleged Attempted Coup

AB2809114094 Accra THE GHANAIA VOICE in English 26-27 Sep 94 pp 1,8

[Unattributed report: "Coup Attempt Confirmed ... Security Tightened at GBC"]

[Text] Security at the Broadcasting House in Accra has been extra tightened since last Monday and Tuesday, 12th and 13th of September, sources close to the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] have disclosed.

They say the Director General of the Corporation himself was at the main gate of Broadcasting House to inspect the identity cards of members of his staff.

According to the sources, those without their identity cards were turned away, including two deputy directors.

Entrance into Broadcasting House is now strictly based on identity cards and visitors have not been allowed in.

A memo has also been pasted on the Notice Boards of the corporation advising members of staff of GBC to carry their identity cards at all times.

Soldiers on guard duties at GBC have been placed on red alert in anticipation of an attack from where the sources could not tell.

This follows reports that seven persons have been arrested and placed in BNI [Bureau of National Investigation], for allegedly attempting to overthrow the government some few days after the president, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings held a close door meeting with officers and men of the Armed Forces at the Burma Camp.

The suspects were arrested at the Abrantie Spot at Abeka Lapaz in Accra with sophisticated electronic equipment in a polythene bag waiting for their contact man.

Meanwhile, soldiers at the Broadcasting House has been ordered not to entertain visitors and are always carrying their weapons by their sides.

This coup scare aside, the security situation has become tense as a result of the anticipated invasion of the country by exiled forces led by the number two man of President J.J. Rawlings' first coming under the AFRC [Armed Forces Revolutionary Council], in 1979, Major Kojo Boakye Djan. Last week your authoritative VOICE disclosed that the government has deployed troops in the Sampa district of the Brong Ahafo region. The report had it that the people in Dormaa Ahenkro, Berekum and Sampa districts are living in fear over the mounting of barbed-wire road blocks by steel-helmeted soldiers armed to kill.

Sources within government circles hint of an elaborate plan for the possible attack by Major Boakye Djan's men and a group of mercenaries.

Reports say military men have pitched tents near the main roads in the region leading from Cote d'Ivoire.

The soldiers in fatigues and wielding G3 and AK47 assault rifles are vigorously searching cars and lorries coming from Cote d'Ivoire. At Nsesreso near Wamfie where there is one such military concentration, most of the inhabitants have fled to other parts of the region because of the invasion scare.

The exodus of these people mainly farmers is seriously affecting agricultural activities.

One cannot understand why the troops have not been deployed in a way as to make people in the area not to fear.

Liberia

Correspondent on Ganta Border Closure, Situation in Gbarnga

AB2909133094 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 28 Sep 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Well, vast fighting around Gbarnga has [words indistinct] started a fresh flood of refugees heading for the border. Those who have reached there may have found themselves in trouble, judging by reports yesterday. They said the border between Liberia and Guinea had been closed. Our reporter Jonathan Peylele is with the NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] at Ganta on the Guinea border; Dan Isaacs asked him if that was the case:

[Begin recording] [Peylele] Yes, some people who tried to cross into Guinea were turned back by the security forces in that country, apparently to prevent a spillover of the latest fighting. I do not know whether this is the general feeling of the Guinean authorities, but people were physically being prevented from going, and those who made their way had to take unknown crossing

points and bypasses. So, the border, especially around Ganta here, is somehow closed to the civilians who are trying to get into Guinea.

[Isaacs] How many refugees are trying to cross into Guinea?

[Peylele] At one point yesterday, I saw a number of (nearly) 60,000 people who were crossing the St. John River to come into Ganta and some 2,000 were trying to cross into Guinea and those are people who were stopped by the Guinean security forces.

[Isaacs] And as far as you are concerned, in Ganta itself or inside Liberia, the NPFL soldiers there, the commandos there are planning... [pauses] are determined to go back and take Gbarnga if they can?

[Peylele] Yes, the soldiers in fact, this morning, I saw them jubilating in the streets. They said they were set to go retake Gbarnga, and I talked to one of the generals who is General Sam Varney. He is one of those... [pauses] Gen. Sam Varney is one of those heading the troops. He said that he is still heading the group and said they were doing all they can to retake Gbarnga.

[Isaacs] Now, Charles Taylor a few days ago claimed he was within a mile or half a mile from Gbarnga. Is that your information as well?

[Peylele] Okay, the last time I was in Gbarnga was four days ago—that's around Gbarnga—and NPFL fighters were around the city center and the eastern block of the city toward (Imakande). So, it is on seven kilometers or so from the city center, but what I obtained from last sources this morning is that the city is now divided into two. NPFL is controlling half and the coalition forces are occupying the rest.

[Isaacs] Now, that is not the information we have from the leader of ULIMO [United Movement for Democracy in Liberia], Alhaji Koromah. He says for the last three weeks, he has been in full control of Gbarnga.

[Peylele] To some extent, I would say that Gbarnga, as I say, is a divided area. The city center changed hands three times yesterday and today, the city center is declared a no-man's land, according to fleeing civilians who have just arrived to where I am speaking from. But the last time I was there and I went to other places, NPFL was trying gain control of the entire city.

[Isaacs] So, as far as you are concerned, still only four days ago, there was still fighting going on in Gbarnga town itself.

[Peylele] There was fierces fighting going on—blasts from rocket-propelled grenades which echoed across the entire region—and the forces were doing all they can to gain control over the city. [end recording]

Further Assesement of Situation

AB2909071594 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Interview with Alhaji Koromah of the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia, ULIMO, by

BBC correspondent Robin White; place and date not given; from the "Focus on Africa" program—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [White] Have you been to Gbarnga yourself?

[Koromah] I don't have to go to all the front areas. Gbarnga is a newly-captured area and is a target area, so I don't have to be in all of the places to prove to anybody that I have captured the area. So, what I am telling you is that you can send your people and, quite frankly, Gbarnga is not that important to us. We were in Gbarnga at the time the Akosombo peace accord was signed, so we are committed to the cease-fire. It's just that we have to defend ourselves when we are attacked.

[White] Would you be prepared to hand Gbarnga back to Charles Taylor?

[Koromah] Look, Gbarnga is not for Charles Taylor. You see, you're talking about headquarters, the Coca Cola factory in Monrovia was one time the headquarters of Taylor. So, if anybody is concerned about headquarters, he should be going back to the Coca Cola factory. We gonna turn over the entire country to the Liberian people, you know, we want to disarm to ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] so this question of headquarters....

[White, interrupting] But he says.... [pauses] Mr. Koromah he says he wants it back and you've signed a peace agreement with him, so why not give it to him back if that's what he wants?

[Koromah] Look, this Gbarnga is not for Charles Taylor. He wasn't there before. Why should I give it back to him. One important....

[White, interrupting] What is the way out of all this.... [pauses] Mr. Koromah, what is the way out of all this mess now? There's so much fighting going on, thousands and thousands of refugees are fleeing, what is the way out of this mess, according to you?

[Koromah] Now, let me tell you something. You may not believe it, but this is the end of the war, you know, this is the end of the war. Nobody is strong enough now to resist. Once these areas have been broken into and all of this myth that this place was so fortified and the other places fortified and cannot be taken, I think we are going to end this war before the end of the chairmanship of President Rawlings. I can assure you of that.

We are going to make contacts with all the warring factions, we're going to take the initiative; I'm going to contact everybody fighting in Liberia to let them know that nobody can win and we have to stop. We are going to call in the elders—I have contacted them along the Guinean-Nimba border—and they're gonna be talking with the soldiers in Nimba County. I have promised that I will not extend my fighting to Nimba and people have started to listen to me.

One important thing I wanted to tell you is that we are responding positively, we want to respond positively to requests by aid agencies to get food into the Gbarnga area. Taylor controls between Konola and the Swakoko area. I heard him say that he will allow the food to go through, and once that happens we will allow the food to come to Gbarnga, to get to Nimba, to get to Lofa. So, we are prepared to do this if one of their officers can come to me in Voinjama and have this whole thing arranged.

Five Civilians Face Treason Charge After Coup Attempt

AB290912,594 Paris AFP in English 1150 GMT
29 Sep 94

[Text] Monrovia, Sept 29 (AFP)—Five Liberian civilians have been charged with treason for alleged involvement in an attempted coup d'etat on 15 September, judicial sources said Thursday [29 September].

The five, all members of the Krahn ethnic group to which coup leader Charles Julue belongs, were arrested earlier this month and re-arrested Wednesday after lawyers succeeded in getting them freed on a technicality.

The five are Edward Slinger, Peal Bargblor, Thomas Zeh, Albert Broe, and Johnson Beh.

Slinger is accused of flying into Liberia with Julue the day before the coup attempt and holding a meeting the same day at his Monrovia home with the four co-defendants. He is a former advisor to late president Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death in the early stages of the conflict five years ago.

The five are the first to be charged in connection with the coup attempt and risk the death penalty if found guilty.

On 15 September a group of dissidents from the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) seized the seat of government in Monrovia, holding it for 12 hours before the building was stormed by soldiers of the African peacekeeping force (ECOMOG).

Over 2,000 of the estimated 5,000 members of the AFL have since been disarmed by ECOMOG. Some 78 AFL soldiers, mostly Krahns, were arrested in addition to the five civilians and currently await charge.

The Liberian conflict started in December 1989 as a rebellion by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) against the Doe regime.

Supreme Court Rules Against Peacekeeper Arrest Powers

AB3009091594 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Monrovia, Sept 29 (AFP)—A supreme court ruling that members of the African peacekeeping force (ECOMOG) have no legal right to arrest Liberian citizens was bitterly attacked Thursday [29 September] by a member of the country's collective presidency.

Philip Banks, a member of the council of state installed on 7 March, said he took "serious exception" to the ruling and would "address in detail his concerns" in the near future.

Liberians fear the ruling could have implications for the cases of 78 members of the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) arrested by ECOMOG following an attempted coup d'etat on 15 September.

No legal authority was available Thursday to comment on the relevance of the precedent to recent events, although Banks denounced it.

"It endangers the lives of Liberians and tends to compromise the security of the state," he said.

The ruling concerned the case of an official in Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), Peter Jallah, who was arrested by ECOMOG in October 1992.

Jallah was accused of transmitting instruction to NPFL fighters by radio when Taylor's forces tried to take Monrovia in an attack code-named Operation Octopus.

Late last week the supreme court ruled unanimously that the arrest of Jallah was "a blatant violation of constitutional and human rights."

Chief Justice James Bull said the former interim government led by Amos Sawyer had failed to reach an agreement defining ECOMOG's powers.

ECOMOG was sent to Liberia in August 1990 under the auspices of the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS) in an early bid to stop the fighting.

The conflict began in December 1989 as an NPFL rebellion against the regime of President Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death by NPFL dissidents in Monrovia nine months later.

On 15 September a group of AFL soldiers led by Charles Julue seized the seat of government in Monrovia and held it for 12 hours before the building was stormed by peacekeepers.

A total of 78 soldiers, mostly of the Krahn ethnic group to which Doe belonged, have since been arrested, while a

further five civilians were charged with treason Wednesday in connection with the coup attempt.

Nigeria

Release of Opposition Leader Abiola Urged

AB2909130094 Paris AFP in English 1229 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Lagos, Sept 29 (AFP)—Prominent members of the same Yoruba ethnic group as detained Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola are to meet with military leader General Sani Abacha soon to lobby for the politician's release, media reported here Thursday [29 September].

Quoting unidentified sources close to the Yoruba opinion leaders from Nigeria's southwest who made the announcement on Wednesday, the DAILY TIMES said that the lobby would first discuss its proposals with Abiola before meeting the head of state.

But no date was announced by the Yoruba opinion leaders for the talks with Abacha, according to the DAILY CHAMPION.

Abiola has been in jail since June on treason charges after declaring himself president following his presumed victory in presidential elections of June 1993, which were annulled by the ruling military.

The Yoruba delegation is expected to be headed by leading politician, chief Adisa Akinloye.

Moslem leaders here, under the umbrella of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA), are meanwhile expected to meet on Monday in the northern city of Kaduna to discuss forming similar delegation to secure Abiola's release from detention.

Mounting concern about the deteriorating health in jail of Abiola, a Moslem millionaire and a vice president of the NSCIA, has led to calls for his release.

The Nigerian Medical Association, after examining Abiola's case, concluded that his health was deteriorating and urged the government to allow him proper medical attention outside prison.

But the government maintains that the politician's life is not in danger.

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